

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 are now pending, wherein claims 1 and 4-19 have been amended and claims 20-22 have been added. New claims 20 and 21 are based upon original claims 1 and 4 with the additional step of "assigning, to each component, a logical address and a function specific address component." Support for assigning each component a logical address and a function specific address component can be found in Figure 1 and numbered paragraph 0033 of the application as filed. Support for new claim 22 can be found in the present application at least in numbered paragraphs 0033 and 0041.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and courtesy during the personal interview conducted on June 30, 2004. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(b), a brief summary of the interview follows. During the interview Applicants' representative provided a summary of the invention which was followed by a discussion of whether U.S. Patent No. 6,377,825 to Kennedy et al. ("Kennedy") anticipates claims 1 and 2. Applicants' representative explained, and the Examiner agreed, that Kennedy does not disclose components which have logical, functional and IP addresses. Accordingly, new claim 20 has been added to include such a feature, and hence, it is respectfully submitted that this new claim is patentably distinguishable over the rejections of record. New claim 21 is patentably distinguishable at least by virtue of its dependency upon new claim 20. The interview concluded with an agreement that Kennedy does not anticipate claim 2.

In the first and second paragraphs of the Office Action claims 1 and 4-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Although this ground of rejection is respectfully traversed, in the interests of expediting prosecution claims 1 and 4-19 have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

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In the third and fourth paragraphs of the Office Action claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kennedy. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kennedy does not anticipate Applicants' claim 1 because Kennedy does not expressly or inherently disclose all of the elements of Applicants' claim 1. For example, Kennedy does not disclose that "said one component, when dialing into the second network, is assigned a second address by the second network" as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

Kennedy discloses a hands-free wireless communication system in a vehicle. Column 8, line 27 through column 9, line 54 of Kennedy describes the techniques for communicating between components of the vehicle and an external network. This section describes that when a vehicle has only one IP address each vehicle subsystem is assigned a port or other identifier. The port or other identifier is the same for similar subsystems in other vehicles in a fleet of vehicles. However, Kennedy does not describe how or when the IP address is assigned to the vehicle, and hence, does not expressly or inherently disclose that "said one component, when dialing into the second network, is assigned a second address by the second network" as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Because Kennedy does not disclose all of the elements of Applicants' claim 1, Kennedy cannot anticipate Applicants' claim 1.

During the personal interview it was agreed that Kennedy does not disclose that "external IP addresses are issued to components which are authorized on the basis of an entry in a configuration list in a centralized component" as recited in Applicants' claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 is respectfully requested. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, and hence, it is respectfully submitted that Kennedy does not anticipate claim 3 for at least those reasons stated above with regard to claim 2.

For at least those reasons stated above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-3 as allegedly being anticipated by Kennedy be withdrawn.

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In fifth through seventh paragraphs of the Office Action claims 8, 9, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious in view of the combination of Kennedy and the MOST Specification Framework Rev. 1.1 ("MOST"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8, 9, 16 and 17 variously depend from claims 1 and 2. As discussed above, Kennedy does not disclose all of the elements of claims 1 and 2. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Kennedy does not suggest all of the elements of claims 1 and 2. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that MOST does not remedy the above-identified deficiencies of Kennedy with respect to claims 1 and 2. Accordingly, the combination of Kennedy and MOST cannot render Applicants' claims 1 and 2 unpatentable. Therefore, claims 8, 9, 16 and 17, which variously depend from claims 1 and 2, are patentably distinguishable over the combination of Kennedy and MOST for at least those reasons stated above with regard to claims 1 and 2.

For at least those reasons stated above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 8, 9, 16 and 17 as allegedly being obvious in view of the combination of Kennedy and MOST be withdrawn.

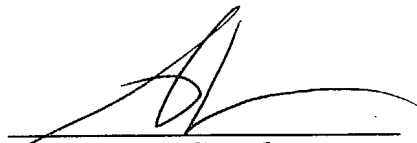
All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.50036).

Respectfully submitted,

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